

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the abstract with the following rewritten abstract, a clean copy of which is submitted herewith on a separate sheet:

~~The present invention relates to transmissions and retransmissions of packet data, particularly ciphered data, in a communications system. Especially, it relates to radio link transmissions and avoidance of deciphering failures in a cellular mobile radio system, particularly a Universal Mobile Telecommunications System, UMTS, or WCDMA system. A method of failure avoidance when synchronizing a transceiver and a receiver by means of transmitted sequence numbers, wherein each sequence number is not necessarily error protected, and wherein a received sequence number considered erroneous according to a predetermined criterion is disregarded.~~